

The following are my notes of the conversation I had with Elena Vaouli on 3/26. The General format is what Elena suggested for the request.

**Background:**

On March 20, 2015, EPA was notified of a potential chemical substance exposure that occurred in St. John, USVI. A family of four began vacationing during the week of March 16, 2015 at Sirenusa, a relatively new condominium complex within the Sirenusa Condominium Resort overlooking Cruz Bay, St. John. All four family members slowly started showing neurological symptoms of acute chemical exposure. The suspected chemical is methyl bromide, a highly toxic pesticide. On March 20, 2015, their symptoms worsened to the point that they required medical care, and they were transported to the St. Thomas Hospital. All four patients have since been transferred to stateside hospitals. The paramedic who transported the victims later noted that she had also exhibited neurological symptoms following the transport, but her symptoms lessened by the following day with over-the-counter medications and rest.

Also on March 22, 2015, an EPA OSC visited the condominium complex where the family had stayed, and confirmed with maintenance personnel that the family had stayed in unit on the second floor above a first-floor unit which had been fumigated with methyl bromide by an exterminator on March 18, 2015. It was suspected that the victims were in the unit for at least a portion of the time that the fumigation was conducted or that they returned to their unit shortly thereafter. The maintenance contact stated that other units in the complex had been fumigated by the same exterminator in October 2014 without incident.

On March 23, 2015, additional personnel were mobilized to assist in the investigation and sampling being planned for this incident, including one person from ERT, two SERAS contractors, two RST contractors, and an additional EPA OSC. EPA is working in coordination with government and local officials as well as ATSDR to complete an assessment of the condominium unit(s) where methyl bromide has been applied. Additionally, ATSDR has provide technical support to the EPA, attending physicians in St.Thomas.

Subsequent to the initial response EPA has learned that several other other units in this complex have been fumigated with Methyl Bromide products between 10/20/14 and 3/18/15.

**EPA Activities:**

Since March 22, 2015 EPA has been conducting an assessment of the fumigated condo units. EPA has performed the following sampling tasks in both condo units: real-time air monitoring for total Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), grab air samples with summa canisters, wipe samples for pesticides, and 12-hour time-weighted average air sampling for pesticides and methyl bromide. EPA has been coordinating with all local agencies including DPNR, VI DOH, VIPD, VIFFD, as well as ATSDR and numerous EPA programs.

**The Request Should Include:**

ATSDR contact residents of the condo complex that have stayed in any of the fumigated units either during or after the application of Methyl Bromide.

ATSDR contact condo complex employees who may have worked in any fumigated units either during or after the application of Methyl Bromide.

ATSDR contact 1<sup>st</sup> responders or other personnel that may have entered treated units

ATSDR should provide these parties with situational awareness of the potential symptoms that may have presented as a result of exposure to Methyl Bromide

In questioning potentially effected persons ATSDR should ascertain if they have experienced any health effects consistent with Methyl Bromide exposure during the time periods previously outlined. If they have received treatment from a physician for symptoms consistent Methyl Bromide exposure, or a documented health effect from an actual Methyl Bromide exposure.

#### **What EPA will do with the data that is gathered from consultation**

By doing this study, EPA hopes to determine if there were additional effects to human health or the environment, and to assist EPA in determining if additional assessment activities are needed.